

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 01292 041321Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EURE-00 /064 W

----- 123226

P R 041130Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6519

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: ELLSWORTH VISIT TO MALTA

REF: (A) STATE 259531; (B) VALLETTA 1285

1. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM MINTOFF, FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA TELEPHONED ME EVENING NOVEMBER 3 TO ASK WHY ASK ELLSWORTH'S VISIT TO MALTA HAD BEEN CANCELLED. HE DESCRIBED MINTOFF AS "UPSET" AND SAID HE HAD TAKEN THE NEWS "VERY HARSHLY." I ASKED IF ABELA HAD BEEN INFORMED OF ELLSWORTH'S RESPONSE TO THE PM (REF A). ABELA, WITH CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT, ADMITTED THAT MINTOFF HAD NOT SHOWN IT TO HIM. I THEN READ THE TEXT TO HIM, POINTING OUT THAT THE OPERABLE PHRASE APPEARED TO BE "INABILITY TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS."

2. ABELA SAID MINTOFF HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE HAD MADE ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS FOLLOWING MANZINI'S INTERVENTION. I EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE, ALTHOUGH I WAS AWARE OF MANZINI'S TELEPHONE CALL TO AMBASSADOR VOLPE ON THIS SUBJECT. ABELA SAID HE REGRETTED THAT SUCH A "SMALL THING" AS TRAVEL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 01292 041321Z

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELLSWORTH MIGHT "SOUR RELATIONS"

BETWEEN US.

3. I NOTED THAT MR. ELLSWORTH'S WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE TRIP, DESPITE THE PRIME MINISTER'S REFUSAL TO DISCUSS SIXTH FLEET CALLS, INDICATED OUR OWN GOOD FAITH AND STRONG DESIRE FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN LIGHT OF ELLSWORTH'S POSITION IN DOD AND THE FACT THAT MINTOFF HAD INVITED HIM TO VISIT MALTA, WE DID NOT THINK IT AT ALL UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT HIM TO COME HERE AS HE NORMALLY WOULD--ON A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT HAVE A FULL REPORT ON ALL THE FACTORS THAT WASHINGTON CONSIDERED IN REACHING ITS DECISION, I ASSUMED THAT MINTOFF'S REFUSAL TO PERMIT ELLSWORTH TO COME HERE IN A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT HAD NOT GONE DOWN TERRIBLY WELL THERE.

4. ABELA, OBVIOUSLY DISTRESSED (AND UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT ATTARD KINGSWELL AND OTHERS HAD STRONGLY URGED MINTOFF NOT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE MILITARY AIRCRAFT--VALLETTA 1282), SIGHED HEAVILY AND REPEATED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT THAT MINTOFF HAD REACTED "HARSHLY" TO THIS DEVELOPMENT AND WAS VERY UNHAPPY. I REMINDED ABELA THAT SOME OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON WERE PROBABLY ALSO UNHAPPY ABOUT MINTOFF'S DECISION. I THEN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE COULD WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP MATTERS IN PERSPECTIVE AND AVOID ANY FURTHER FALLOUT. ABELA AGREED BUT SAID "IT WILL TAKE SOME DOING."

5. COMMENT: WE SHALL CLEARLY HEAR MORE ABOUT THIS. MINTOFF MAY WELL LASH BACK IN ANGER SOMEHOW, OR HE MAY SIMPLY ASK US TO RECONSIDER--EITHER VIA A DIRECT PERSONAL APPEAL TO ELLSWORTH OR VIA MANZINI AGAIN AS AN INTERMEDIARY. SINCE MANZINI WAS STILL HERE WHEN MINTOFF RECEIVED WORD OF THE CANCELLATION, IT MAY WELL BE THE LATTER. SMITH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VALLET01292
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750382-0629
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751178/aaaacsmc.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 259531, 75 VALLETTA 1285
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELLSWORTH VISIT TO MALTA
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, MT, US, (ELLSWORTH, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006